(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has taken various steps to promote the exports of toys through export promotion schemes such as Market Development Assistance (MDA) and Market Access Initiative (MAI). Financial assistance is being provided to the industry to attend specified fairs like Middle East Toy Fair in Dubai & Nurnberg Toy Fair in Germany, etc. A domestic exhibition named "SPOT" (Sports outdoor and Toys) was also organized as part of the Indian Handicrafts Fair. A National Programme for Development of the Toy Industry has been started with assistance of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Impact of enlargement of European Union on Indian trade

611. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether enlargement of the European Union with ten more countries joining the EU on May 1, 2004 will have a long lasting impact on Indian trade and investment and a threat to Indian exporters;

(b) whether Government/industry feel that low cost procedures in Central and Eastern European countries will eat into big markets like Germany, Italy, U.K. and France under the outward processing traffic programmes; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to meet the threat to the Indian exporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c) The enlargement of the European Union (EU) with ten more countries joining the EU on May 1, 2004 provides Indian companies with the opportunity to access the enlarged EU market as well as increases the challenges. Government of India facilitates the Indian industry to carry out among others, market studies, participation in trade fairs etc. to avail of the opportunities afforded by the EU expansion.